New Mexico Agricultural Statistics Service

Weekly Ag Update

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Crop Weather ERS

Available on Internet at: www.nass.usda.gov/nm OR by e-mail (call 1-800-530-8810 for information)

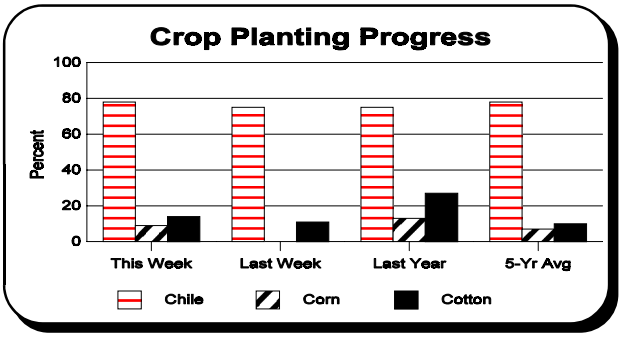
CROP SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 13, 2003

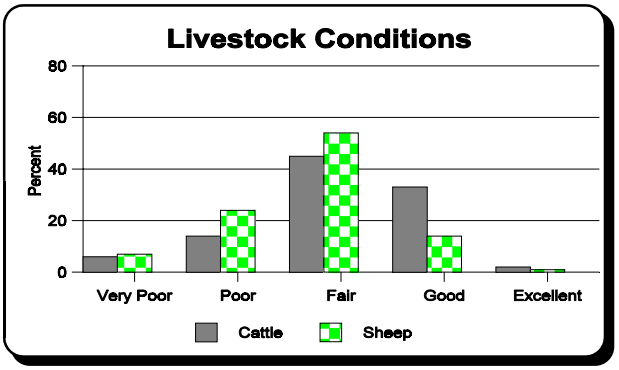
NEW MEXICO: There were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork. Wind damage was 18% light and 5% moderate, with damage reported to alfalfa and pasture. Freeze damage was 7% light, 6% moderate, and 3% severe, affecting fruit trees and hay crops. Farmers spent the week cleaning ditches, irrigating, fertilizing corn ground, and planting chile, cotton, corn, and potatoes. Alfalfa was reported as 8% very poor, 15% poor, 46% fair, 28% good, and 3% excellent. A few farmers had started on their first alfalfa cutting. Total wheat conditions dropped to 15% very poor, 35% poor, 33% fair, 15% good, and 2% excellent. Some fields were being cut for wheat silage and hay. Chile and lettuce continued to be listed as fair to excellent. Chile was 78% planted, cotton was 14% planted, and corn was 9% planted. Onion conditions improved to 76% good and 24% excellent. Ranchers were busy calving, lambing, branding, and mending fences. Supplemental feeding and watering continued. Livestock conditions declined, with cattle listed as 6% very poor, 14% poor, 45% fair, 33% good, and 2% excellent. Sheep were reported as 7% very poor, 24% poor, 54% fair, 14% good, and 1% excellent. Range and pasture conditions were listed as 22% very poor, 30% poor, 40% fair, and 8% good.

CROP PROGRESS PERCENTAGES WITH COMPARISONS

CROP PROGRESS		This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
CHILE	Planted	78	75	75	78
CORN	Planted	9	1/	13	7
COTTON	Planted	14	11	27	10

1/ Not available



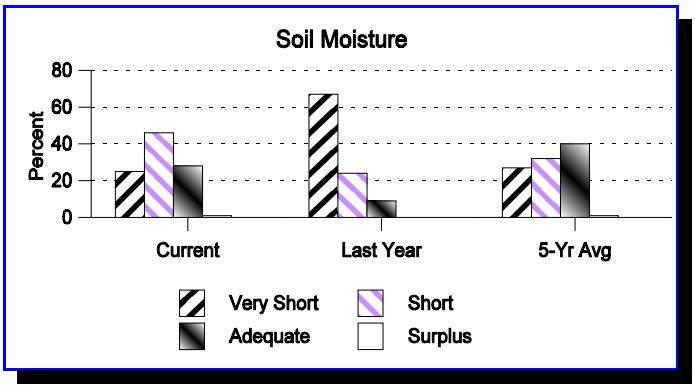


CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION PERCENTAGES

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	8	15	46	28	3
Lettuce	–	–	10	52	38
Chile	–	–	9	82	9
Onions	–	–	—	76	24
Wheat (All)	15	35	33	15	2
Cattle	6	14	45	33	2
Sheep	7	24	54	14	1
Range/Pasture	22	30	40	8	--

SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTAGES

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Northwest	25	39	34	2
Northeast	35	45	19	1
Southwest	14	86	--	--
Southeast	23	32	45	--
State	25	46	28	1
State-Last Year	67	24	9	--
State-5-Yr Avg.	27	32	40	1



WEATHER SUMMARY

New Mexico experienced a dry week with temperatures close to normal. After a chilly start, temperatures warmed during the week, reaching 91 degrees at Carlsbad and 90 degrees at Roswell on the 13th. The week also began with windy conditions, but the winds subsided quite a bit during the 2nd half of the week. Precipitation was spotty and mainly confined to the north at the beginning of the week. Red River (.15") and Tucumcari (.13") were the only spots that measured over a tenth of an inch.

NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS APRIL 7-13, 2003

	Temperature			Precipitation				
Station	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	04/07 04/13	04/01 04/13	Normal Apr	01/01 04/13	Normal Jan-Apr
Carlsbad	60.4	91	31	0.00	0.00	0.49	1.40	1.49
Tatum	54.0	88	29	0.00	0.00	0.64	0.49	2.05
Roswell	58.1	90	32	0.00	0.00	0.65	0.69	1.99
Clayton	51.4	82	22	0.01	0.01	0.94	0.45	2.04
Clovis	54.1	81	26	0.00	0.00	0.81	0.31	2.30
Roy	49.6	78	22	0.00	0.00	0.82	0.50	2.14
Tucumcari	56.4	85	28	0.13	0.13	0.87	2.25	2.00
Chama	40.8	69	10	0.01	0.07	1.27	3.59	6.61
Johnson Ranch	45.0	76	12	0.00	0.00	0.49	1.69	2.47
Capulin	45.8	77	15	0.03	0.03	1.01	2.07	2.86
Las Vegas	48.3	75	18	0.00	0.00	0.89	1.01	2.16
Los Alamos	47.3	69	20	T	0.00	1.00	1.57	3.88
Raton	46.4	80	17	0.03	0.03	1.06	2.05	2.90
Santa Fe	48.2	76	15	0.00	0.00	0.81	1.85	2.87
Red River	37.9	64	7	0.15	0.30	1.68	6.01	5.75
Farmington	50.9	78	24	0.00	0.00	0.51	2.50	2.48
Gallup	44.9	74	14	T	0.00	0.64	1.41	3.23
Grants	46.4	76	14	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.52	1.95
Silver City	51.4	76	24	0.00	0.01	0.53	2.15	3.90
Quemado	46.4	74	16	0.00	0.00	0.60	1.38	2.95
Albuquerque	56.3	79	34	T	0.00	0.52	2.47	1.96
Carrizozo	51.5	79	23	0.00	0.00	0.36	0.94	2.10
Gran Quivera	51.0	77	22	0.00	0.00	0.64	0.45	2.88
Moriarty	47.4	82	15	0.00	0.00	0.66	0.89	2.10
Ruidoso	48.0	71	21	0.00	0.00	0.63	1.71	4.24
Socorro	53.6	85	29	0.00	0.00	0.36	0.49	1.41
Alamogordo	59.3	88	30	0.00	0.00	0.26	1.18	1.93
Animas	60.9	84	35	0.00	0.00	0.20	1.40	1.86
Deming	57.9	85	32	0.00	0.00	0.18	1.89	1.54
T or C	58.4	85	34	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.99	1.40
Las Cruces	59.3	89	34	0.00	0.00	0.21	1.91	1.26

(T) Trace (-) No Report (*) Correction
All reports based on preliminary data. Precipitation data corrected monthly from official observation forms.

U.S. Cotton Export Share of Total Demand Remains High: The latest United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) cotton forecast for 2002/03 projects U.S. cotton exports at 10.8 million bales, slightly below 2001/02 and the second highest since 1926/27. As U.S. mill use has fallen during the last several seasons, the export share of total U.S. demand has risen. In 2001/02, however, this share jumped significantly as surplus U.S. supplies—aided by a record cotton crop—provided the foundation for the largest exports in 75 years. In 2002/03, the export share is expected to remain near 60 percent, compared with the late-1990's average of less than 40 percent.

Contributing to the sustained U.S. cotton export forecast is a record foreign consumption estimate of nearly 89.5 million bales. And with foreign cotton production reduced over 7 million bales this season, foreign import needs have risen to their highest since 1994/95. As a result, foreign ending stocks are estimated at only 31.4 million bales, 20 percent below 2001/02 and also the lowest since the 1994 season.

U.S. Cotton Supply and Demand Overview: The 2002/03 U.S. cotton crop remains estimated at 17.1 million bales (upland—16.5 million and extra long staple—649,000 bales), compared with a record 20.3 million in 2001/02. The USDA will release final production estimates on May 12th. Based on the current production estimate and beginning stocks of 7.4 million bales, this season's U.S. cotton supply totals 24.6 million bales, 6.5 percent below last season. Likewise, 2002/03 total demand for U.S. cotton is unchanged in March and is expected to reach 18.4 million bales, 2 percent less than a year ago. The U.S. cotton export forecast is maintained at 10.8 million bales this month, as strong sales and shipments are expected to continue throughout the remainder of the season. In addition to U.S. exportable supplies at competitive prices, declining foreign stocks and a 3-percent increase in foreign cotton consumption are expected to keep U.S. shipments near those in 2001/02.

U.S. mill use remains estimated at 7.6 million bales this season—100,000 bales below 2001/02—as the dramatic reductions seen over the last several seasons have not materialized this season. Cotton mill use this season for August-January totaled 3.75 million bales, similar to the comparable period a year ago when consumption equaled 3.77 million. However, consumer demand for cotton products continues to be increasingly satisfied by imported textiles and apparel which keeps persistent pressure on the domestic mill industry.

Based on this supply and demand outlook, U.S. cotton ending stocks for the current season remain forecast at 6.2 million bales, more than 1 million bales under last season. Consequently, the 2002/03 stocks-to-use ratio is expected to decline 6 percentage points to 33.7 percent, the lowest in 3 years.

Textile Trade Deficit Widens in 2002: U.S. textile imports totaled 1.2 billion pounds (raw fiber equivalent) last December, 3 percent below November but 32 percent above a year earlier. Imports of cotton, wool, and manmade textiles were lower than November. Imports of all major end-use categories—except floor coverings—declined in December compared with a month earlier. Apparel imports, at 773 million pounds, were 5 percent below November.

December textile exports also declined from a month earlier, totaling 315 million pounds. Exports were 5 percent below a month earlier and slightly above a year ago. Total exports declined in each major end-use category and for all fiber types. Cotton textile exports declined to 145 million pounds, 25 percent below a month earlier and the lowest monthly shipments during 2002.

Total 2002 textile imports reached 15.2 billion pounds, 1.6 billion pounds (12 percent) above 2001. However, textile exports totaled 4.8 billion pounds, a reduction of 96 million pounds (2 percent) from a year ago. As a result, the total trade deficit reached 10.4 billion pounds, compared with 8.7 billion in 2001 and 8.3 billion in 2000. Cotton accounted for 61 percent (6.3 billion pounds) of the deficit. Thirty-one percent of the deficit was attributed to manmade fibers, while 3 percent came from wool textiles. The remaining 5 percent came from silk and linen textiles, with the latter accounting for 4 percent.

U.S. Domestic Cotton Consumption Expands in 2002: U.S. domestic cotton consumption (mill use plus net textile trade) in calendar year 2002 returned to its upward trend that was temporarily interrupted by the recession of 2001 when consumer demand for textile and apparel products diminished. The increase

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this past year resulted from the continued expansion of imported cotton products, as U.S. cotton fiber mill use declined once again. In stark contrast, however, the U.S. spinning industry managed to increase its use of manmade fibers in 2002, a feat not duplicated by any natural fiber.

U.S. domestic consumption of cotton reached a record 10.0 billion pounds in 2002, 8 percent above 2001. On the one hand (despite this increase) cotton's share of domestic consumption of all fibers declined in 2002 to about 40.5 percent, or slightly below the previous 5-year average. On the other hand, the U.S. spinning industry accounted for only 3.7 billion pounds or 37 percent of this total.

While U.S. mill use has declined for five consecutive seasons, net imports of textiles and apparel have risen. In 2002, net imports of cotton products were nearly double the level of 1997, resulting in a complete reversal of the share that U.S. mills and net imports contribute to total domestic cotton consumption.

U.S. Per Capita Estimates Revised: While year-to-year changes in total cotton mill use and textile trade are very important, perhaps just as valuable is this same data on a per capita basis.

The Census Bureau provides estimates of the U.S. population for each month of the year based on the most recent Census enumeration. Recently, these estimates were revised upward as a result of the 2000 Census, altering the population figures back to 1990. Consequently, these adjustments have modified per capita estimates as well.

U.S. domestic cotton consumption on a per capita basis was reduced only marginally in the early 1990's, but larger adjustments occurred in the more recent years as population had expanded more than previously estimated. In 2000, for example, cotton consumption on a per capita basis peaked at a revised 34.9 pounds, nearly a pound lower than previously projected; a similar adjustment occurred in 2001.

Based on the latest data, 2002 U.S. per capita domestic cotton consumption rose nearly 2 pounds from the year before to 34.6 pounds, close to the revised 2000 estimate. Similar adjustments can be seen in per capita mill use figures. However, U.S. per capita cotton mill use has fallen 7 pounds in the last 5 years to just under 13 pounds.